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inviting. Such copies may be taken in a blank book suited to the purpose, or better, take them on single sheets of uniform size, as in this way imperfect copies may be thrown out, and when the work is completed they may be named, classified and bound, making a volume of real value and worthy of just pride. I would esteem it a favor as well as a pleasure to hear personally from any who may employ this method in any way the coming season, concerning the progress of their work, with its attendant imperfections and successes.—HORACE M. ENGLE, *Marietta, Pa.*

A method of staining *Peziza* specimens.—Decolorize the *Pezizæ* by soaking in a solution of corrosive sublimate (1 to 2000 Aq. Dist.). Wash from precipitated calomel by agitation in distilled water. Macerate in 90 per cent. alcohol for twenty-four hours. For immediate examination, lower for a few seconds in a strong hæmatoxylin solution, wash in distilled water; or, if preferred, use the dilute hæmatoxylin fluid. (See Campbell, *ante*, p. 40.)—CHARLES E. FAIRMAN.

A visit to Washington.—A brief visit to the capital of the country recently gave an opportunity of inspecting some of the botanical work in progress under the auspices of the government, a short account of which may interest others.

The casts of fruits, vegetables and fungi, naturally colored, with other material illustrative of the vegetable kingdom, first attract the attention of the visitor, as he passes through the museum on the second floor of the Agricultural Building on his way to the herbarium. Entering the herbarium one is pleasantly greeted by the head of the Botanical Division, Dr. Vasey. During his fifteen years of service the botanical work of the department has expanded and developed new features, giving rise to two lusty offshoots, the Forestry Division and the Section of Vegetable Pathology.

The large double room of the herbarium is lined with tall cases filled with the 200,000 sheets, or so, of mounted specimens, with tables and low cases in the center for bulky specimens. In this room also are the desks of the assistants. The division is fortunate in having recently secured the services of Mr. Crozier, of Michigan, who is now engaged in preparing a catalogue of the North American desiderata. This will be heartily appreciated by the botanists of the country, enabling them to contribute desirable material, as they have long expressed a willingness to do, when they should be informed of the needs of the herbarium.

On the next floor above are the rooms of the Forestry Division. The work here does not profess to be botanical, but as it deals with trees, many of the problems being treated biologically, and employs several eminent botanists in the field, the botanists of the country will naturally take an interest in the work and its results. Mr. Sudworth, of Michigan, has recently been appointed assistant.